Sewing Tips + Modifications for Fabric Mask-Making – Supplement to our VIDEO
The BOLT BEES Mask-arade Brigade, March 2020

The supplies I am using are available from The BOLT QS.
Please call/email/FB message/IG message us!

GENERAL INFO:

- Use a good quality poly thread. Masks will be subject to numerous washings and bleachings. This is what is used for quality garment sewing.
  I am using GLIDE

- Hospitals are requesting tightly woven cotton fabrics be used. Batik fabrics are tightly woven from their production process. Other quilting cottons are tightly woven as well. I suggest not using stretch jersey nor flannel.
  I am using COTTON BATIKS

- Sharp machine needles are great for these fabrics, as they don’t shred the fibers.
  I am using ORGAN size 12 needles

- Requested Pattern I am using: Craft Passion’s FACE MASK w a POCKET for FILTER INSERT, Size: Man. (I am using MAN-size as it’s my opinion after making up multiple sizes that this one is the best unisex size).
  - Note: ‘POCKET MAIN FABRIC = Outer Layer’. ‘POCKET LINING FABRIC = Inner Layer’.
  Here is the link: https://www.craftpassion.com/face-mask-sewing-pattern/

Disclaimer: This face mask is not designed to replace a surgical medical face mask.

Important infection prevention:
Before starting this project, please ask yourself the following questions:
- Have you been in contact with anyone suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19 in the past 14 days?
- Do you have fever, cough or shortness of breath?

If you are able to answer “NO” to both questions, then proceed with making masks.
If you answer “YES” to either or both questions, please do not make masks. If you are experiencing cough, fever, or shortness of breath and have a concern that you may have COVID-19, please call your primary care provider for a risk assessment.
PATTERN PREP + SEWING SUGGESTIONS (my modifications):

- At 100%, print out (2) copies of POCKET MAIN FABRIC (w SEAM ALLOWANCE) template. Print out (1) copies of POCKET LINING FABRIC (w SEAM ALLOWANCE) template. Rough cut them out.

- Using 1-2 FILE FOLDERS, glue the (3) templates to them.
  - Cut (1) POCKET MAIN FABRIC template along SEWING LINE (you are cutting away SEAM ALLOWANCE).
  - Cut remaining POCKET MAIN FABRIC + POCKET LINING FABRIC templates along SEAM ALLOWANCES.

- I use a CERAMIC PENCIL for tracing templates onto fabric.

- (2) POCKET LINING FABRIC pieces: When tracing your pattern templates onto fabric, include drawing the ¼” line inside of the SEWING LINE at this time.

- I prefer to clip curved seam allowance AFTER I’ve sewn TOP-STITCHING.

- When sewing INNER + OUTER LAYERS together, stitch TOP first, then STAY-STITCH along INNER LAYER. This allows LINING to lie properly on nose.

- I’m finding ELASTIC measurements (6-8”, 12-16”, even 19” from other patterns) to be too arbitrary. I decided to substitute it w an easy-to-adjust DRAWSSTRING CORD:
  
  - Cut 1” strips (on STRAIGHT GRAIN if possible) to total 44” – 56”. If cutting multiple strips, attach them into 1 long strip, as done when making quilt binding.
  - Fold raw edges on both ends (short sides) in approx. ¼”. Stitch RS (right sides) together LENGTHWISE. Using FASTURN or safety pin, turn tube RS out. Press. Seal ends by topstitching, keeping raw edges inside.

**To string the Cord:**
- Starting at one side top, bring cord down into channel, along bottom, (this will go around the neck), then up through other side’s channel. It ties at top of head, and is fully adjustable, accommodating many head sizes.

Stitch on, Sewists! Thank you!!!